

## **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Frequently Asked Questions and Resources for Communities**

### **What management strategy should be employed to mitigate the impact of emerald ash borer (EAB)?**

There are several different strategies your community can utilize when addressing an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in Georgia. Viable options include: no treatment, then removing and replacing dead ash trees; treating all ash trees with insecticide; or treating only high-value ash trees that provide significant benefits to the community, and removing other unhealthy ash trees, replacing them with non-ash species. The first step should be creating/updating an Urban Forest Management Plan.

Address EAB in your urban forest management plan and decide the direction you will take to mitigate this pest problem. Every community is different and the direction you take may differ from that chosen by other communities. The decision should be based on the number of ash trees in your community and the relevance of those trees in the landscape. A cost / benefit perspective could also be helpful in long-term decision making.

No matter what the decision, it is important for your community to be aware of this pest's impact, decide if there are significant, healthy ash trees you want to protect, and be prepared to remove or treat trees that become infested. It is important to remember that EAB damage can be worse than it appears. By initiating treatment of significant trees early, you can maximize your success.

### **How should we assess the ash population in our community?**

Start by conducting an inventory of ash trees as soon as possible. Determine the number of ash trees, their size, condition, location and value in the community. Resources for conducting a basic tree inventory may be found at (Link to <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/inforesources/inventory/treeinventorymgmtsoftwarelist.pdf>) and an example of an ash inventory map from Chattanooga, TN.

There are several survey and detection methods that can be utilized in your community. EAB can be present in trees for three to five years before signs and symptoms appear, so detection efforts should occur well before then. (<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/e-2938.pdf>). Guidelines for branch sampling techniques can be found at (<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pubwarehouse/pdfs/32127.pdf>).

### **How do we determine which ash trees should be removed and which ones should be treated?**

Discuss options regarding trees to be treated and removed with your community leaders, arborist and tree board members. While EAB has had significant impact in other parts of the United States and Canada and cost municipalities and nurseries tens of millions of dollars, it may not be a significant tree in your community forest. Yet, your municipality may have valuable, noteworthy ash trees that you want to protect from this destructive pest. In the end it may come down to a cost benefit analysis of treatment vs. removal and replacement.

Consider how you will address an EAB infestation in street trees (ash is not a common street tree in GA), park/campus trees and private property trees. Review your tree ordinance (<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/public-programs/tree-city-usa/tree-city-enrollment-criteria/>) and laws currently in place for dead and dying trees and make any revisions now to be prepared for rising EAB populations.

### **What treatment options are available for healthy trees and when should they be treated?**

There are several treatment options available, ranging from easy homeowner-applied treatments to certified pesticide applicator only treatments. These are usually based on the threat of EAB in your area, and the health and size of your trees. See XX document to help determine which treatment is best suited for your situation. Treatment options (GFC pdf link).

### **What if we want to remove an infested ash tree?**

Regulated articles include the emerald ash borer in any life stage, firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species, ash nursery stock, green (non-heat treated) ash lumber, other living, dead, cut, or fallen, material of the genus *Fraxinus*, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, and composted and uncomposted chips that have not been ground to a small enough size to destroy EAB in any life stage, as required by USDA APHIS.

Proposed EAB Regulations ([http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/eab/AG-737709-v1-GFC\\_EAB\\_Regs.pdf](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/eab/AG-737709-v1-GFC_EAB_Regs.pdf))

### **How much will this cost my community?**

Ash mortality increases seven to 10 years after infestation and if not treated, most trees will need to be removed. If you have a grove of trees, or trees in a greenway, you may want to begin budget planning for removal of ash trees now. It may be important to address whether trees that won't be at risk of associated damage from tree failure should be removed or left standing in the landscape.

### **What educational materials about EAB are available?**

These websites will help provide additional information about the Emerald Ash Borer and what you can do in your community to manage this pest:

Emerald Ash Borer (<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/#sthash.UNRPZvvc.dpbs>)

Don't Move Firewood (<http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/>)

GA Invasive Species Task Force ([gainvasives.org](http://gainvasives.org))

GFC Forest Health (<http://www.gatrees.org/forest-management/forest-health/eab/index.cfm>)

The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) has an [EAB toolbox](#) and a [position paper](#). The SMA believes every community that includes ash trees as a component of its urban forest should adopt an EAB management plan.

### **What is our community's plan for tree replacement and planning?**

Talk to your tree board about your community's tree replacement and planting plan. There are many examples of tree replacement and replanting plans available. A community forester with the Sustainable Community Forestry Program can assist your community. Contact us. <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/about-us/contact-us/forestry-departments/sustainable-community-forestry-program-directory/index.cfm>.